

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT NOW ENTANGLED IN GENERAL
ECONOMIC CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS

REF: COPENHAGEN 0169 DTG 101640Z JAN 77

SUMMARY: EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A NEW DEFENSE
AGREEMENT HAVE BROKEN DOWN AGAIN. DEFENSE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE
BEEN PULLED INTO COMPLEX DISCUSSIONS ON ECONOMIC MEASURES.
END SUMMARY.

1. DANISH MEDIA REPORT TODAY THAT ATTEMPTS LAST NIGHT
TO BREAK THE IMPASSE IN DEFENSE NEGOTIATIONS FAILED AND
THAT NEW TALKS HAVE NOT BEEN SCHEDULED. THE BREAKDOWN
WAS CAUSED BY CONTINUED RADICAL PARTY INSISTENCE ON A
CLAUSE (OPPOSED BY FOUR OTHER PARTIES) PERMITTING
PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET AND BY SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC REFUSAL TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WITHOUT
THE RADICALS. THE OVERALL ECONOMIC FRAME OF THE
FOUR-YEAR PROPOSAL REPORTEDLY WAS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL,
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INCLUDING THE RADICALS.

2. THE DELAY IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT SEEMS TO HAVE
MADE DEFENSE A PAWN IN A TACTICAL PLAY BY THE
PARTIES WHOSE SUPPORT IS NEEDED TO SOLVE SERIOUS
ECONOMIC ISSUES NOW FACING THE GOVERNMENT. THE
COPENHAGEN DAILY BERLINGSKE TIDENDE SPECULATED THAT

THE GOVERNMENT'S INITIAL PLAN WAS TO USE SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE NEGOTIATIONS AS A LEVER FOR AGREEMENT ON OTHER ISSUES (I.E. UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, HOUSING AND ENERGY TAXATION) BUT THAT UNCERTAINTY REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF RALLYING THE NECESSARY PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT ON THESE ISSUES HAS MADE THE GOVERNMENT RELUCTANT TO CONTINUE DEFENSE NEGOTIATIONS. PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "IF THE PARTIES CAN AGREE ON ISSUE NUMBER ONE, THERE ARE THREE OTHER ISSUES THAT AGREEMENT ALSO CAN BE REACHED ON". HE ADDED THAT "THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT BE THROWN OVERBOARD MERELY BECAUSE OF PETTY PARTY TACTICAL DICKERING".

3. THE GOVERNMENT IS MEETING WITH THE PARTIES TO THE AUGUST COMPROMISE SEPARATELY TODAY FOR TALKS ON HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, AND THE ENERGY TAX. UNDOUBTEDLY, THE STATUS OF THE DEFENSE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BECOME A PART OF THESE TALKS. IF THESE OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN, EARLY ELECTIONS ARE VERY PROBABLE.
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